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ER 84-8085

10 September 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Information Systems Board Members

FROM: [redacted] 25X1
Executive Secretary to the Board

SUBJECT: Minutes of 19 July 1984 Meeting of the Information Systems Board

1. The Information Systems Board met on Thursday, 19 July 1984. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

2. The revised minutes of the 29 June Board meeting, incorporating changes requested by [redacted] were disseminated. 25X1
Mr. Taylor asked that Board members contact the Executive Secretary with any other additions or corrections. [redacted] 25X1

3. [redacted] briefed the Board on the Agency's use of 25X1
personal computers (PCs). He distributed charts and figures indicating that PC use has grown in the past year and that Wang PCs account for much of this growth. While ODP can now support the Wang PC and probably will support the IBM and possibly other PCs within several months, it will not be able to support all vendors. In response to a question regarding the costs and benefits of PC standardization, Messrs. [redacted] said that, depending upon 25X1
the application, the user can be hurt by being forced to use a terminal inadequate for his job. [redacted] suggested that the 25X1
present volitility of the PC market argues against standardizing too soon, and that ODP will probably end up supporting all the current PC leaders -- Wang, IBM and Apple. [redacted] 25X1

4. [redacted] suggested that the fewer models used at the 25X1
Agency the more likely we were to influence vendors to build in the unique capabilities we need -- like improved security. He mentioned that one in every four "No Escort" badges issued goes to ODP vendors. [redacted] commented that "tempest" is not a major issue since the key vendors will offer tempest-tested PCs, but that the use of floppy disks does present a security hazard. D25X1 EXEC REG

[redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] commented that OC is looking at encryption for PCs outside the building. [redacted] 25X1 25X1

5. Mr. Taylor asked the status of the [redacted] contract to assess Agency requirements for PCs. [redacted] replied that [redacted] probably would have his initial conclusions by the end of September. [redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

6. Mr. Taylor next introduced Dr. Craig Fields, Senior Scientist for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Strategic Computing Program -- the US answer to Japan's "Fifth Generation Computer" project. Dr. Fields told the Board that the program's goal is to create research breakthroughs in high-speed computers and Artificial Intelligence (AI) software that could provide a new generation of computing power for defense and intelligence applications. He then discussed the intended applications: an autonomous vehicle that can "see" where it is going, an "assistant" that fighter pilots can question in English to assist them in missions, and three battle management programs which will use AI techniques to aid battle commanders in making tactical decisions. In addition to the software development goals of the program, Dr. Fields mentioned that much of the $23 million in research grants already allotted would go for a gallium arsenide computer-chip pilot production line expected to produce chips far superior in speed and capacity to the standard silicone chip used in current computers. (A schematic outline of Dr. Fields briefing is attached.) In closing, Dr. Fields invited Agency involvement in the program, suggesting that DARPA would loan hardware and software to Agency components interested in trying it on live problems. [redacted] 25X1

7. Mr. Taylor thanked Dr. Fields and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 12 September, at 1500 hours in Room 6D49 Headquarters. The Executive Information System Working Group will present its final report. [redacted] 25X1 25X1

[redacted]

Attachment

Distribution
1 - Compt
1 - D/OC
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1 - C/IMS
1 - C/ASG
1 - ER
1 - Planning Staff

[redacted] CONFIDENTIAL 25X1

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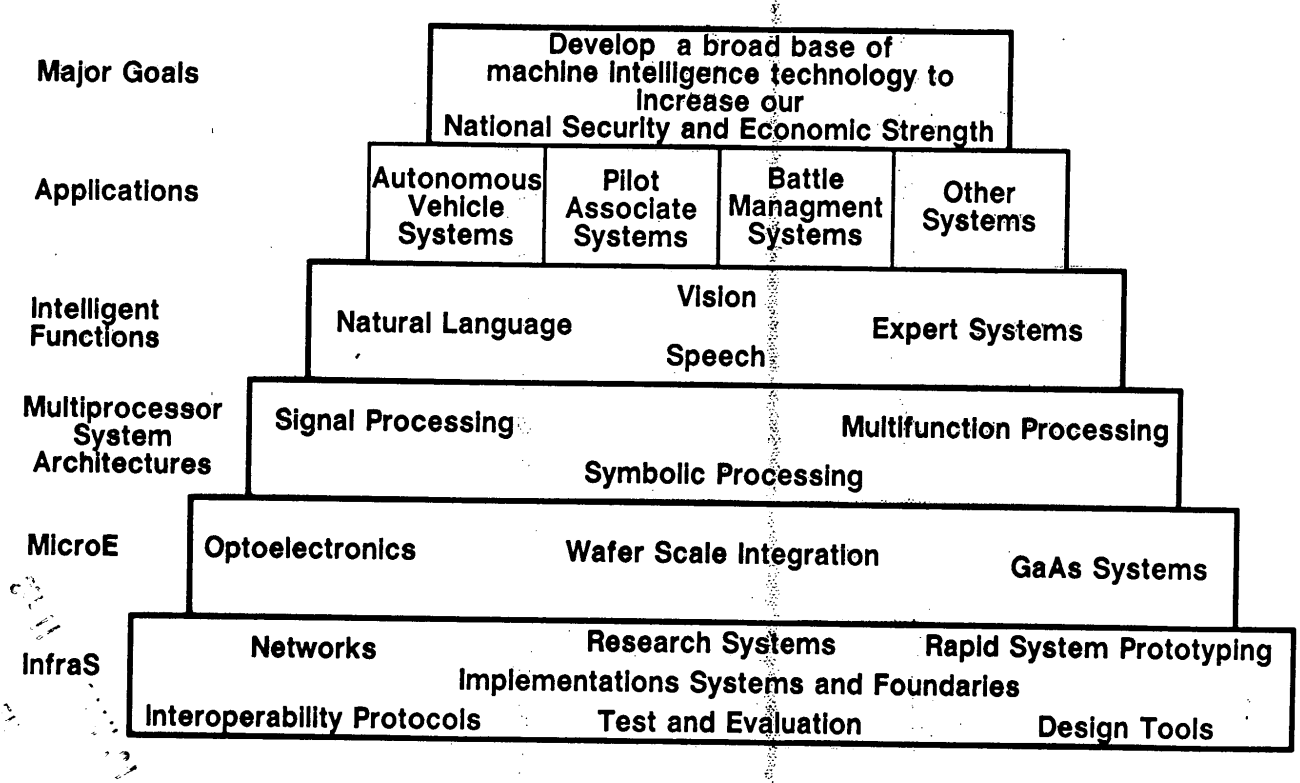

DARPA Strategic Computing Program Structure and Goals

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